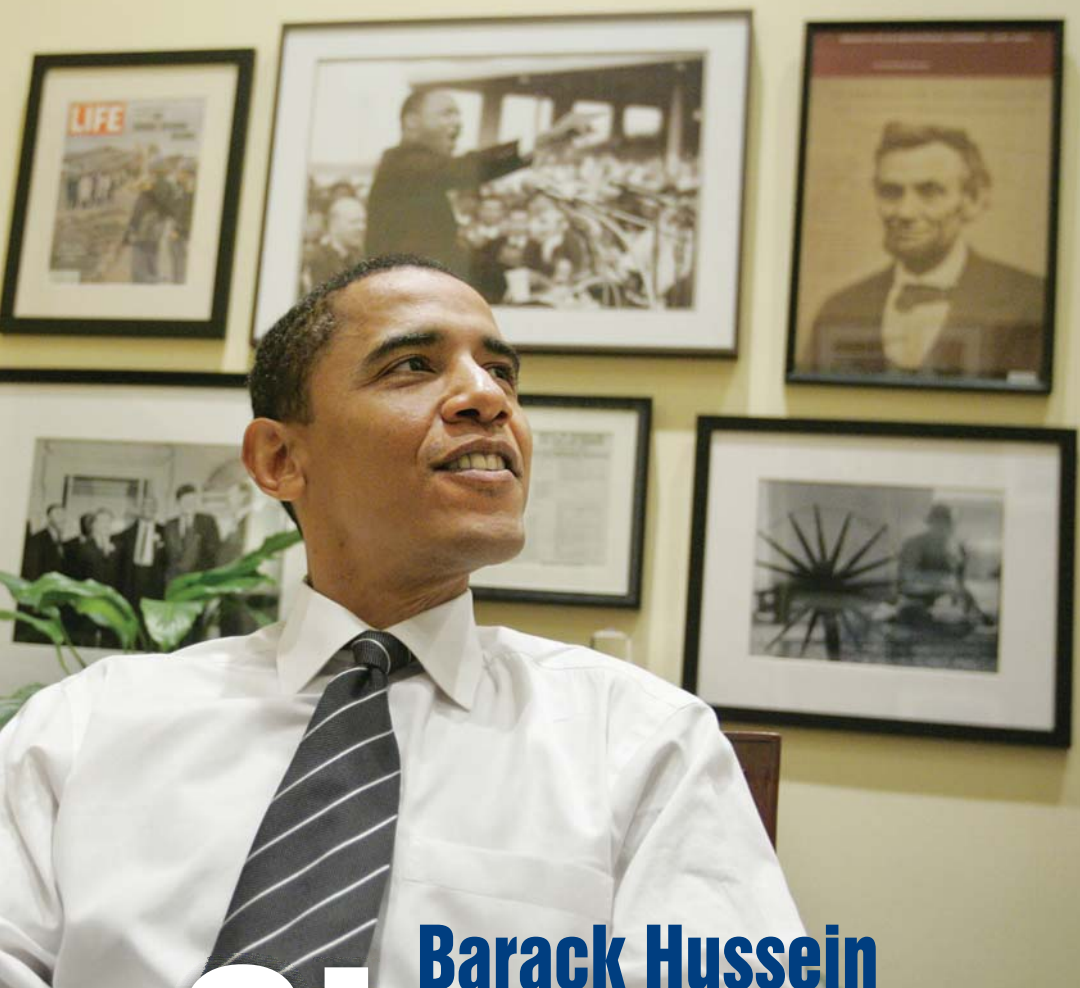


September/October 2010

ARTICLE & WEB ALERT

Digest of Articles and Websites
of Significant Interest



Barack Hussein

Obama

the 44th President of the United States of America

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Note: Internet sites included in this publication, other than those of the U.S. government, should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

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Barack Hussein Obama: the 44th President of the United States of America

The entire world watched when Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009. Born to a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas, Obama created history as the first African American to move into the White House. His journey to the highest office in the U.S. and the charisma of his trendsetting campaign for the U.S. presidency opened a new chapter in U.S. politics. Considered an unlikely candidate when he first announced his run for the presidency in February 2007, Obama has proved himself to be an ambassador of change.

Barack Obama's biography is, as he puts it, "uniquely American". His parents came from vastly different backgrounds. His mother, Ann Dunham, was born and raised in small-town Kansas. After her family moved to the Hawaiian Islands, she met Barack Obama Sr. and married him in 1959. Barack Obama was born in Honolulu on August 4, 1961. In his early years, young Obama had to struggle to make sense of a biracial heritage, which was relatively uncommon in the United States at that time. However, being rooted in both black culture and white culture gave Obama the expansive vision he holds today as a political celebrity.

Obama obtained his early education in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Hawaii. He earned a bachelor of arts (BA) in 1983 from Columbia University, worked as a community organizer in Chicago, Ill., studied law at Harvard University, where he became the first African American president of the *Harvard Law Review* and graduated in magna cum laude in 1991. In 1992, he married Michelle Robinson, another Harvard Law graduate. Today they are the proud parents of two daughters, Malia and Sasha.

Like his personal life experiences, Obama's political career is also a mix of varied experiences. He made his first run at elective office in 1996, when he won a seat from Chicago in the Illinois State Senate. After serving for eight years as Illinois State Senate, he was elected to the U.S. Senate from Illinois in 2004. He was selected to open the Democratic National Convention and electrified the audience, leaping to a national focus. Finally, he ran for the U.S. presidency and made a winning move when he was elected

44th president of the United States on November 4, 2008.

The White House, for Obama, is not a destination. His commitment and struggle towards the change for a better world continues. He has won the prestigious 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. On the domestic front, he has brought in much awaited health reforms by signing the health care reforms into law in March 2010. His other accomplishments include decision to close the detention facility at Guantanamo, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Bill), and shifting policy debate away from Iraq.

Strengthening ties with South Asian allies is part of Obama's highest agenda and India continues to be global strategic partner of the United States. Maintaining the momentum of the U.S.-India relationship set by his predecessor, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was invited to Washington in November 2009 in the Obama administration's first state visit. Dr. Singh took this opportunity to ask Obama to visit India. On November 24, 2009, in a joint statement, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama reaffirmed the global strategic partnership between India and the United States, and launched a new phase in this partnership.

Now, a year after Prime Minister Singh's visit, President Obama is all set to visit India. India is looking forward to President Obama's India visit with great hope and optimism. This historic visit is being looked at as a great opportunity for not only maintaining the momentum of U.S.-India relationship, but reaching new heights in integrating the common interests of the two great democracies of the world. Indian leaders are optimistic, media is looking forward to be witness to this great moment, and the entire India is gearing up to greet and say, "Welcome to India, President Obama."

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1. BOSOM BUDDIES? : BAN AND OBAMA'S CURIOUS RELATIONS

By Stephen Schlesinger. World Policy Journal, v. 27, no. 1, Spring 2010, pp. 87-95.

Former director of the World Policy Institute, Stephen Schlesinger finds that both Ban Ki-moon, the secretary general of the United Nations (UN), and Barack Obama, the president of the United States, are confronting similar challenges. In this article, Schlesinger explores how Obama brought in new hopes for a better American relationship with the United Nations. Obama's re-engagement with the UN is reflected in his appointment of Susan Rice as U.S. ambassador to the body in his initial days, holding an early get-together with Ban Ki-moon at the White House in the seventh week of his presidency, and seeking to rectify discredited Bush-era policies on peace-keeping, human rights and women rights, climate change, nuclear disarmament, and arms trade.

2. GANDHI, CIVILIZATION, NON-VIOLENCE AND OBAMA

By Tamer Söyler. Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences, v. 2, no. 1, 2010, 430-445.

This article analyzes Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence in contrast to that of Obama's. Obama respects and admires Gandhi's ideology and practice for non-violence but he also feels that sometimes war is inevitable. The author revisits some of prime concepts of Gandhian philosophy and explores meaning of Gandhi's true civilization.

3. HOW OBAMA CAN GET SOUTH ASIA RIGHT

By C. Raja Mohan. The Washington Quarterly, v. 32, no. 2, Spring 2009, pp. 173-189.

South Asia has figured in Obama's prime concerns ever since his presidential campaign. One of his advocacies has been shifting U.S. foreign policy debate away from Iraq and moving towards Afghanistan. This article takes stock of this shift in the back drop of contemporary situation and diplomatic relations between India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. It discusses how former U.S. President George W. Bush harmonized strategic interests of New Delhi and Washington. It talks about the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack and its impact on the reform initiatives

in the region. One of major challenges before Obama administration remains aligning the interests of Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan and maintaining the significant strategic cooperation between New Delhi and Washington.

4. INDIA'S SEASON OF DISCONTENT: U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS THROUGH THE PRISM OF OBAMA'S "AF-PAK" POLICY, YEAR ONE

By Jason A. Kirk. Asian Affairs: An American Review, v. 37, no. 3, 2010, pp. 147-166.

This article reveals India's perception of its relationship with the United States during the initial days of Obama presidency. The primary concern of India has been whether it will continue to be the strategic partner of the U.S. during the Obama administration. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's official visit to Washington in November 2009 was an endorsement of U.S.-India friendship that paved way for a strong and growing strategic partnership between the two nations. The author discusses new opportunities and engagement vis-à-vis Indian concerns about Obama's Af-Pak policy.

5. LEGALISM AS AN EXECUTIVE IDEOLOGY: FOUNDATIONS OF BARACK OBAMA'S LEADERSHIP STYLE

By Irving Louis Horowitz. Perspectives on Political Science, v. 39, no. 3, July-September 2010, pp. 160-165.

In this article, Horowitz analyses the sources of President Obama's decision-making in the light of his background foundation. The author looks beyond Obama's roots in racial politics and ethnic background and concentrates more closely on him as a graduate of Harvard Law, an editor of its law journal, and a man who is steeped in legal doctrines of evidence and proof. He analyzes Obama's legal cast of mind and its impact on presidential policy options in the areas of foreign policy, global challenges, and domestic issues.

6. THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR ON TERROR

By Michael B Mukasey. Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, v. 33, no. 3, pp. 953-962.

Mukasey seeks to examine how Obama administration's programs and policies over a period of one year have succeeded in keeping the United States safe. In this context, he mentions

how the intelligence-gathering authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) passed in 2008 have remained in place. Obama administration also continues to recognize the state secrets privilege when litigation threatens to disclose national security information. However, the administration has brought in several changes in policies regarding the detention and apprehension of prisoners on the battlefield. The Obama administration was also bold enough to announce that it would abandon harsh interrogation techniques and close the detention facility at Guantanamo within a year.

7. OBAMA ON AND OFF BASE

By Eugene Goodheart. Dissent, v. 57, no. 3, Summer 2010, pp. 45-51.

While discussing the achievements of President Barack Obama in his office till about mid-2010, Goodheart defends President Obama against attacks on him by what has been his liberal constituency. His critics have often cited former U.S. presidents like Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson as models and contrasted their performances with the timorousness of Obama's. Goodheart calls this unfairness of the contrast. The author presents a list of Obama's accomplishments during his first year of presidency to counter his critics, who go as far as to deny that he has done anything of significance.

8. OBAMA ON THE STUMP: FEATURES AND DETERMINANTS OF A RHETORICAL APPROACH

By Kevin Coe and Michael Reitzes. Presidential Studies Quarterly, v. 40, no. 3, September 2010, pp. 391-413.

Since the beginning of his political career, Barack Obama's formidable rhetorical skills have been at the center of his public persona and political success. His oratory has played significant role in his journey towards becoming a political celebrity and has been the subject of many research studies. However, most of these studies have attempted to analyze a single speech. This study of Obama's oratory considers his multiple speeches to explore the general patterns that exist in his rhetoric. It tracks Obama's rhetoric over the course of the 2008 presidential campaign and uses a unique computer-assisted content analysis procedure.

9. OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY

By Henry R. Nau. Policy Review, April & May 2010, pp. 27-47.

This article contrasts U.S. foreign policy of President Barack Obama with that of his predecessor President George W. Bush. Comparing American foreign policy with the swings of a pendulum, the author shows how the policies have swung decisively in the opposite direction to that of Bush administration. Obama's approach is prioritized towards U.S. security interests, unwillingness to use military force, regularizing global capitalism, and multilateralism of U.S. diplomacy.

10. OBAMA'S OPPORTUNITY WITH INDIA

By Daniel Twining and Richard Fontaine. World Politics Review, November 26, 2009, p. 2

By hosting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for the first state visit of his administration in November 2009, President Barack Obama sent signals that U.S. continues to take India seriously. Although some Indian leaders have shown concerns about Obama's presidential priorities, the two democracies share a convergence of interests including but not limited to defeating Islamic terrorism, stabilizing Afghanistan and Pakistan, and sustaining a pluralism of power in Asia.

11. OBAMA'S NPR: TRANSITIONAL, NOT TRANSFORMATIONAL

By Daryl G Kimball and Greg Thielmann. Arms Control Today, v. 40, no. 4, May 2010, pp. 391-413.

One year after President Barack Obama embraced the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, his administration released its Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) that reflects a positive shift in U.S. nuclear thinking and practice. The new NPR recognizes that deploying thousands of strategic nuclear weapons is neither appropriate nor necessary for security and stability in the 21st century. It also emphasizes that reducing the role and numbers of U.S. nuclear weapons will give an edge to the United States in pursuing its NPT (Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty) partners to join.

12. A PRESIDENT'S REPORT CARD: OBAMA'S FIRST YEAR AS PRESIDENT: AN INTERVIEW WITH NOAM CHOMSKY

Harvard International Review, v. 32, no. 1, Spring 2010, pp. 56-60.

In this interview philosopher, activist, and professor emeritus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology comments on the policies of Obama administration. Chomsky finds that Obama's policies are continuation of Bush's Second term policies. He mentions how Obama won the award from the U.S. advertising industry for the best marketing campaign of 2008. He also talks about the Obama administration's policies towards Israel-Palestine issue and nuclear nonproliferation debate.

13. PRESIDENTS AND HEALTH REFORM: FROM FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT TO BARACK OBAMA

By James A. Morone. Health Affairs, v. 29, no. 6, June 2010, pp. 1096-1100.

By signing the health care reforms into law in March 2010, President Obama created history. Before him many U.S. presidents since Franklin D. Roosevelt attempted in sailing through the health reform effort initiatives but most failed and it was finally President Obama who finally accomplished this. However, it was not easy for Obama to pursue health reforms at a time of economic crisis, surging deficits, and calls to wait for better times. This article takes a closer look at his initiatives in accomplishing this historic achievement and discusses some important political lessons for future reformers to ponder.

14. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION THEORY IN THE OBAMA ERA

By Thomas A. Bryer, et al. Administrative Theory & Praxis, v. 32, no. 1, March 2010, pp. 118-122.

The authors, who met during the 2009 Public Administration Theory Network Conference, discuss new hopes about the future of public administration during Obama era. Barack Obama has brought new hopes for multiculturalism and diversity, transparency, and civic engagement. On the very first day in office, President Obama issued a memorandum to all federal agencies calling for a new era of transparency and open government. However, the authors seem a little concerned about involving citizens in the political process.

15. RELIGION AND POLITICS: FROM BUSH TO OBAMA: RETHINKING SEX AND RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES' INITIATIVE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By Yvonne C. Zimmerman. Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, v. 26, no. 1, Spring 2010, pp. 79-99.

Zimmerman begins with a review of the U.S. anti-trafficking legislation and the basic conception of human trafficking that the Bush administration inherited. He then examines how key figures in the Bush administration used religious and theological language to condemn trafficking. The author then visits Obama administration's policies towards anti-trafficking. Finally, he recommends how Obama administration can reorient U.S. anti-trafficking policies away from their current preoccupation and reconstruct them around the promotion and protection of human rights.

16. U.S.: OBAMA RESTORES U.S. INT'L IMAGE TO PRE-BUSH LEVELS

By Jim Lobe. Global Information Network, July 24, 2009.

According to a survey by the Pew Global Attitudes Project (GAP), President Barack Obama has restored U.S. image to pre-Bush level, the one that it enjoyed back in 2001. U.S. policies are now considered less unilateral under Presidency of Barack Obama. Survey response of respondents from seven key countries including India is encouraging. There has been significant increase in number of people who perceive United States a partner rather than an enemy or neither.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

17. DOES THE FINANCIAL CRISIS THREATEN DEMOCRACY?

By Iwan Davies. SAIS Review, v. 30, no. 1, Winter-Spring 2010, pp. 165-173.

The author from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies believes that as government stimulus packages taper off, there will be concerns that whether the world economy will enter a period of sustained recovery, or whether the wounds are deeper than anticipated. Should the crisis not abate quickly, governments already struggling under the weight of excessive spending and decreased revenues will have limited

policy options. This will create challenges for governments in many developing countries where economic growth is a key source of political legitimacy. Could the current or future economic crises lead newer democracies back down the road to authoritarianism? Will growing authoritarian states, such as Iran, Russia or China, come under increasing pressure to democratize? The author seeks to answer these questions by exploring the economic effects of the financial crisis and the potential impacts on political stability in developing countries.

18. AN ENTREPRENEURIAL RECOVERY

By Carl Schramm and Robert E. Litan. Wilson Quarterly, v. 34, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 44-47.

Although big business is more often in the news, small companies run by entrepreneurs are crucial to America's economic success. This leads the author to the conclusion that job creation depends on the founding and development of new, entrepreneurial businesses. He notes that half of the current Fortune 500 corporations began in a recession or a bear market. The entrepreneurs should come from abroad, from universities, and young people should be encouraged to start their own businesses and given access to tools to do so.

19. THE RISE AND FALL OF THE G.D.P.

By Jon Gertner. New York Times Magazine, May 16, 2010, pp 60-71.

Economists and even governments now claim there might be better ways to take measure of a country's health and happiness than its G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product), defined as the total value, or index, of a nation's output, income, or expenditure produced within its physical boundaries. The United States accounts for a significant percent of world G.D.P. It has been a difficult few years for G.D.P., which has not only failed to capture the well-being of current society, but has also skewed global political objectives toward the single-minded pursuit of economic growth. It has been actively challenged by a variety of world leaders and by a number of international groups, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

20. CRACKS IN THE JIHAD

By Thomas Rid. Wilson Quarterly, v. 34, no. 1, Winter 2010, pp. 40-47.

The author notes that the global jihad is fragmenting and that's not good news for the West. Despite al-Qaeda and the Taliban remaining at odds and Internet jihadis taking fewer cues from Osama bin Laden, defeating the global jihad does not seem to be within immediate reach. He observes the change in the Taliban's tone and its efforts in throwing an "ideological bridge" to parts of the Kabul administration. On the other hand, former firebrand imams have started questioning the theological justifications of holy war. Today, Al-Qaeda's latest recruits look more like a self-appointed elite than representatives of the Muslim "masses," Western-born but rootless, drawn to the identity-building certainties of radical Islam.

21. THE NEW VULNERABILITY

By Jack Goldsmith. New Republic, v. 241, no. 4885, June 24, 2010, pp. 21-28.

Cyber thefts, attacks and espionage by criminal organizations and foreign states have been growing at an unprecedented rate, and while the problem is largely invisible to the general public, the government is alarmed. Goldsmith reviews former U.S. government counterterrorism official Richard Clarke's new book, *Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It*. The extraordinary complexity of computer systems and the insufficiently secure private-sector infrastructure is a huge vulnerability for a country heavily dependent on computer technology. Goldsmith takes issue with some of Clarke's conclusions, noting that, while Clarke may be right to worry about China preparing for cyber war, China's dependency on a functioning U.S. economy greatly reduces the credibility of that threat. Goldsmith views Clarke's proposal for an international cyber-arms control agreement as unrealistic, since any given country views its own cyber-snooping as benign, but not if done by an adversary, and origination of cyber attacks can be almost impossible to determine. While no catastrophic cyber event has yet occurred, Goldsmith advocated that such warnings should not be ignored.

22. U.S. INTELLIGENCE AT THE CROSSROADS

By William W. Ellis. *Mediterranean Quarterly*, v. 21, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 1-11.

The author, formerly with the Congressional Research Service, notes that the diffuse and opaque nature of the terrorist threat has fundamentally changed the way U.S. intelligence agencies operate. Because many more individuals could be potential objects of interest, intelligence agencies must look at or listen to everyone and everything. Much of the colossal amount of data collected in the past decade has not been properly analyzed, says Ellis, "the US intelligence community can see and hear almost everything, but apparently cannot make heads or tails of it." The push to reduce the size of the federal service during the Clinton and Bush administrations, and the fact that the intelligence agencies had fallen behind the private sector in technology, led to widespread privatization. Ellis discusses various problems with rampant privatization, such as cost overruns, overly ambitious or inappropriate projects, lack of oversight, political influence by contractors, and access to data on private U.S. citizens. He believes that intelligence is an inherently governmental function and should not be contracted out.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

23. IN HAITI, DEEP SKEPTICISM ABOUT A U.N. RESCUE PLAN

By Jessica Desvarieux. *Time*, posted online April 3, 2010

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1977287,00.html>

At the U.N. donor conference on March 31 2010, the international community pledged more than USD 5 billion to support Haiti for the next 18 months and almost \$10 billion for the next five years. These enormous figures are aimed at rebuilding the poorest country in the Western hemisphere—one made even poorer after devastating earthquakes in January. Plans, however, reveal that a joint commission between Haitian authorities and the international community, co-chaired by Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, will manage the funds. Haitians are concerned that aid money will not trickle down to the people but instead be used by the government to take care of its own. Already there are reports that, after the earthquake, government-affiliated community leaders sold coupons for food aid intended to be free. Haiti is one of the 10 most corrupt countries in the world, according to Transparency International; despite this record, the international community has decided not to bypass the bureaucracy of

Port-au-Prince, hoping to strengthen it. For its part, the Haitian government has committed itself to transparency, and the prime minister has agreed to the idea of posting financial documents online. Even so, there are fears that if the government succeeds, the international community will get the glory, and if it fails, the Haitian government will be blamed for corruption.

24. LIVING IN LIMBO: THE ASYLUM PROBLEM

By Krista Mahr and Tanjung Pinang. Time, July 5, 2010

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1999274,00.html>

According to the U.N., there were over 15 million recognized refugees around the world at the beginning of 2009, and another 826,000 asylum seekers. Further, more than half of the world's refugees are in Asia. Most are fleeing bloodshed, repression or poverty, many end up in countries where governments are ill-equipped both legally and economically to handle the volumes of people requesting protection at their borders. Many of those governments are increasing their efforts to keep out economic migrants and ramp up security. Refugees that do escape their home country can expect a long wait for settlement in a third country, no state is obligated to offer permanent homes to refugees in transit countries. Today's refugee crisis is a global problem, and it demands responses from all nations—not just those who are bearing its brunt. Today, "there is freedom of goods and services, but there's not an acceptance of the movement of people," says Denis Nihill, the chief of mission for the International Organization for Migration in Indonesia. "It's not traditionally seen as being a multilateral issue." The author notes that finding ways to manage borders without excluding genuine asylum seekers won't be an easy task.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

25. ART AND NEW MEDIA

By Elizabeth K. Mix. Choice, v. 47, no. 8, April 2010, pp. 1411-1412, 1414-1416, 1418-1423.

The author, a professor of art history, Jordan College of Fine Arts, Butler University, Indiana, notes that since writers come from a wide range of disciplines, it should come as no surprise that theoretical approaches used in the interpretation of technology-based art are similarly diverse. Each time technology has substantially changed, artistic practice has followed. One example was photography, often

connected with modernism, it led to a flatness and focus on formal elements in paintings. Television and analogue video, the technologies first connected to post-modernism, hastened the development of performance art. Today, art forms driven by technology-based elements include internet art, virtual reality, digital video, interactive graphic design, bio/genetic art, cyborgs, digital performance, and online exhibitions. With the terminology associated with new media, it is now possible to provide a framework for understanding how art in its history, theory and practice is changing to keep pace as technologies evolve.

26. CLOSING THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

By Michael Hirschorn. *Atlantic Monthly*, v. 306, no. 1, July/August 2010. p. 76.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/closing-the-digital-frontier/8131/>

The Internet's founding ideology—that information should be free, and that attempts to constrain it are not only hopeless but immoral—is crumbling under the onslaught of applications ("apps"), smart phones, and pricing plans. The shift of the digital frontier from the Web, where the browser ruled supreme, to the smart phone, where the "app" and the pricing plan now hold sway, is far from a given, however, especially with the under-30 crowd accustomed to free content. The prospect of paying hundreds or thousands of dollars yearly for print, audio, and video on expensive new devices is not going to be an easy sell. Even so, media companies see profits to be made from pushing their best and most timely content through their apps instead of their Web sites.

27. IT'S THE CONTENT, STUPID

By Steven Escar Smith and Holly Mercer. *American Libraries*, v. 41, no. 1-2,

January/February 2010, pp. 48-51.

The authors, both associated with Texas A&M University Libraries, believe that libraries and librarians can play pivotal role in the development of online scholarship. Digital monographs and journals, scholarly websites, online archives, blogs and other similar easily accessible sources of scholarship will bring a host of benefits for all. Digital contents are not limited by conventional limitations and are often integrated with interactive software and multimedia. What remains to be seen is how libraries transit themselves to manage to preserve digital content with the same degree of confidence as print.

28. A NET OF KNOWLEDGE

Asia Pacific Defense Forum, v. 34, no. 4, 4th Quarter 2009, 16-21.

http://forum.apan-info.net/2009-4th_Quarter/APDF_Vol34Iss4_ENG_120309.pdf

Reporting and rewards programs help catch elusive terrorists. In the community effort to capture known terrorist Mas Selamat Kastari, telecommunication companies in Singapore sent e-mails to 5.5 million subscribers with his photograph and description, plus a phone number to call to file a report. He was captured by Malaysian authorities in the village of Johor Bahru, across the border from Singapore. In the Philippines, the U.S. Counter-Terrorism Rewards Program, part of the larger anti-terrorism operation called the Rewards for Justice Program, has been very successful in getting leads on high-profile terrorist suspects. This U.S. State Department program pays for information leading to the arrest, capture and conviction of wanted terrorists, both in the United States and abroad, seeks information concerning finances, assets and plans of terrorist organizations, and relocates informants and their families. Since its inception in 1984, the Rewards for Justice Program has paid more than US \$77 million to more than fifty people who provided information about terrorists worldwide.

29. REPRESSION GOES DIGITAL

By Joel Simon. Columbia Journalism Review, March/April 2010, pp. 12-14.

The Internet provides avenues for journalism and free speech, but it has also become a chokepoint for free press as oppressive governments exploit vulnerable areas in the information environment. Iran, Burma, China, Vietnam and Tunisia are governments which deny Internet access, practice censorship, or use monitoring technology to identify and persecute activists. Nokia Siemens, a Finnish-German joint venture, has sold Iran such technology. The author lauds Google's recent stand in China to refuse to comply with government censorship. Broad international coalitions of journalists and others, including governments, concerned about press freedom are important to maintain pressure on repressive governments to ensure dissident voices continue to be heard.

GLOBAL ISSUES

30. COUNTING CRANES

By Jennifer S. Holland. *National Geographic*, June 2010

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/06/whooping-cranes/holland-text>

Experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service have been collaborating on saving the whooping crane. They are worried about the cranes' future, whose numbers have recently dwindled, after a resurgence. Numbering only a few hundred, they are threatened by habitat degradation, power lines, and natural predators. Breeding them in captivity and reintroducing the birds into the wild has boosted their numbers, but it is a fragile success.

31. ENVISIONING THE ECOCITY: URBAN ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE POST-OIL AGE

By Krister Wiberg. *Worldwatch*, v. 23, no. 2, March/April 2010, pp. 10-17.

Looking forward to an age when humans have abandoned oil and the individually driven auto, this professor of urban sustainability sketches four urban environments that she says would meet all needs for living, working, shopping, and transport. The first example is a small city of 30,000 in Sweden in which a new grid of railroads and stations supports the creation of living-working nodes around closely spaced stations. In the second model, the author puts forth a plan for a medium-sized city in Denmark to contract, reversing decades of urban sprawl that have consumed more resources and land. The third type of urban environment envisioned by the author is based on a polycentric concept in which village units with differing responsibilities create a closed loop, each providing products or recycling wastes to support the entire urban structure. The fourth example re-designs the high-rise apartment development that sprang up in many urban areas in the mid-20th century. The Wiberg plan creates living spaces with flexibility and adaptability to the changing needs of families, including space devoted to common gardens and markets with inviting spaces on a more human scale.

32. FADING FAST

By Anne Minard. *National Parks*, v. 84, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 39-47.

Light pollution, a problem in many brightly lighted urban centers, is preventing us from seeing the stars distinctly and even having

adverse health impacts on humans and animals. The author surveys the research on the subject and discusses what U.S. National Park Service officers such as Chad Moore, who heads Yellowstone's Night Sky Team, are doing to preserve the night environment. Organizations such as the International Dark Sky Association and NASA are among those working to provide data on the effects of light pollution. Individuals can help by restricting outdoor light use and installing fixtures that direct light downward.

33. FLUSHING FORESTS

By Noelle Robbins. World Watch, v. 23, no. 3, May/June 2010, pp. 6-11.

The growing popularity of toilet paper use threatens forests worldwide. Old forests are being cut not only for paper and other products, but to clear land for plantations of quick-growth trees that provide virgin wood pulp fiber, harvested by companies striving to meet increased international demand. Such plantations sap water in semi-arid regions, adding to local environmental distress. Paper production also has significant environmental impact. Remedies may include more widespread use of recycled paper for toilet paper, or paper-free methods such as low- or high-tech bidets, the hand-held Tjibbi and the Japanese-designed high-end Washlet being two examples.

U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

34. ARE WE THERE YET?

By Jessica Bennett, Jesse Ellison and Sarah Ball. Newsweek. v. 155, no. 13, March 29, 2010, pp. 42-46.

In 1970, 46 women working at *Newsweek* filed a landmark gender-discrimination case and won. This article reviews that event and looks at the current status of women at *Newsweek* and in the workplace across the United States. The authors conclude that while chances for promotion for women at *Newsweek* have improved, they are far from equal to that of men. Although 49 percent of *Newsweek* employees are female, men wrote all but six of *Newsweek* magazine's 49 cover stories last year. Nationwide, the situation isn't much better. U.S. Department of Education data show that, a year out of school, despite better college grades, young women take home just 80 percent of what their male colleagues do. Motherhood has long been the explanation for the persistent pay gap, yet a decade out of college, full-time working women without children still make 77 cents for every dollar males make. The Global Gender Gap Index—a

ranking of women's educational, health, political, and financial standing by the World Economic Forum—found that from 2006 to 2009 the U.S. had fallen from 23rd to 31st, behind Cuba and just above Namibia. Companies may have incorporated policies aimed at helping women, but they still have a long way to go. "The U.S. always scores abysmally in terms of work-life balance," says the WEF's Kevin Steinberg. "But even here, [women] still rank 'masculine or patriarchal corporate culture' as the highest impediment to success." The four most common female professions today are secretary, registered nurse, teacher, and cashier—low-paying, "pink collar" jobs that employ 43 percent of all women.

35. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: A TOPIC AS OLD AS JEFFERSON AND AS NEW AS TODAY

By Quentin Kidd. Choice, v. 47, no. 9, May 2010, pp. 1603-1615.

In this bibliographic essay, the author notes that both scholars and the public have always been interested in civic engagement and that it is a growth area for academic research. Citizens engage in a positive way without basic knowledge of the political system and how it operates, or without some understanding of public policy. Does this mean that civic engagement is in decline? Questions related to the health of civil society and its connection to democratic policies and practices are not going away anytime soon. The author discusses the literature of civic engagement under areas such as making sense of the subject, everyday engagement and renewal, roles that youth can play, education, practice, civic engagement in the information age, religion, immigration, environmentalism, and new directions and approaches.

36. PUTTING A PRICE ON WORDS

By Andrew Rice. New York Times Magazine, May 16, 2010, pp. 46-52.

When news is search-driven, audience-targeted and everywhere, what's a story worth? As more users pick up their information from the Internet and other services that make news available even as it is happening, several large media companies are in bankruptcy, and old-fashioned newspapers and magazines mourn the loss of readers and circulation. Meanwhile, other news outlets are still trying to prove that journalism is still a profit-making enterprise. Besides the print publications that offer free access to their online content, enterprising new sites, like Associated Content and Demand Media, generate content that feeds Google appetites and brings in huge advertising revenues. However, no one seems to know how to value the product anymore.

37. THE INSANITY VIRUS

By Douglas Fox. Discover, v. 31, no. 5, June 2010, pp. 58-64.

Schizophrenia research in the last several years has uncovered some unexpected results. For years the disease was believed to be the result of bad genes or bad parenting. The real culprit, says psychiatrist Fuller Torrey, director of the Stanley Medical Research Institute in Chevy Chase, Maryland, is a virus known as HERV-W, that is entwined in everyone's DNA and is triggered not by psychological factors but by infection, especially in newborns. Experiments and case studies point out research done by Torrey and others that the HERV-W virus is found in patients suffering from multiple sclerosis as well as schizophrenia. HERV-W is prevalent in 49 percent of people with schizophrenia, but in only 4 percent of healthy people. With continued research and experimentation, more will become known about schizophrenia and multiple sclerosis, and some day both diseases may become less debilitating and perhaps even preventable.

38. LEAF POWER

By Fred Guterl. Discover, v. 31, no. 5, June 2010, pp. 34-36.

Innovative research is making our energy supply safer, cleaner, and much more secure. Scientists at Helios, a joint project of the University of California, Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, are recreating the photosynthetic process and are trying to tweak it for better energy production. The search is on for more viable energy sources. Helios researchers want to build an artificial leaf that drips ethanol or some other alcohol derivative, which could be pumped directly into a fuel tank. The author notes that harvesting sunlight to replace petroleum is a tall order, with the world dependent upon fossil fuels, the trend toward global warming and greenhouse gases, the idea of using the sun to make a liquid fuel is growing more appealing in both economic and ecological terms.

39. LISTENING TO BACTERIA

By Natalie Angier. Smithsonian magazine, v. 41, no. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 76-82.

Bacteria are smarter than you think, according to the findings of the Princeton University microbiologist profiled in this article. Bonnie Bassler is a leader of a new field of microbiology called "quorum

sensing," which studies the communication between bacteria. Contrary to traditional view, scientists now have found that bacteria "converse" in complex chemical languages. They discuss their shared environment, its conditions, and what actions they may take in concert, as their quorum is formed. "They can compost an elephant, fertilize an oak forest or light up the oceans in the eerie teal glow of bioluminescence," Angier writes. They can also decide to transform a chronic condition into a virulent one in the human body, causing serious disease symptoms, and even death. Having detected that process, researchers are hoping that they can develop a drug that will interrupt the process, though Bassler acknowledges that achieving that goal is still likely a decade away.

40. NEW SPECIES FROM ANCIENT CAVES

By Troy Anderson. National Wildlife, v. 48, no. 2, February/March 2010, pp. 14-16.

Caves shelter thousands of animal species, many of them unknown, according to biologists exploring caves beneath California's southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, where new and unusual species are being discovered. Cave life forms are vulnerable to chemicals, poisons and other contaminants, and are adversely affected by amateur cave explorers who disrupt delicate underground habitats. Anderson advocates protecting the caves of Sierra Nevada as habitats of the newly discovered species.

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